

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1889.

## Electric Lights.

The contract for lighting the public streets with electric lights is one of great importance for many reasons. It involves the expenditure of \$7,500 per annum, almost one tenth the annual tax levy. It withdraws the patronage of the town from the Gas Company, the larger part of whose revenue is drawn from the public lighting of Bloomfield and Montclair, and it inaugurates new system of street illumination.

It is the fact that no public contract entered into with the Gas or Water Company ever gave entire satisfaction to the community. Corporations exist to make money. They are not charitable or philanthropic institutions. Their officers invariably work for what they consider the best interests of the Company, which are frequently not the best interests of the town.

A glance backward at present contracts paved the way for some observations upon the contract now held under advisement by the Township Committee.

The Montclair Gas and Water Company was from the first a foreign corporation. Most of the capital was invested by parties living in the city of Newark. It has been generally believed that its stock was considerably watered. Its works were built during the prevalence of high prices. In order to earn dividends upon watered stock and a high priced plant it has charged extreme prices for gas, losing thereby its private customers, forfeiting the good will of the town, and finally, because it had few local stockholders, losing the street-lighting contract also. High prices and foreign stockholders killed it. A more liberal policy would have greatly helped its business.

The East Orange Water Company has fared better. Its policy has been more liberal. It has extended its mains wherever desired; but the price is twice too high, while the pressure maintained at the hydrants is much too low. Nothing is left but to groan under the burden of a bad contract until its provisions expire with the lapse of time.

This ancient history teaches:

(1) That the best policy for a town is that of absolute ownership. If the law would permit it it would be better for villages to build their own water-works, gas houses and electric-light shops. The revenue from private consumers would go far toward paying the expense of maintaining the gas lights, water hydrants or electric lights needed for public use.

(2) That the best company for supplying water, gas, or electric lights is one officered and directed by men living and interested in the town—men of honesty, ability and public spirit. There will then be no watered stock to earn dividends and no effort to avoid the responsibility of furnishing good supplies at a reasonable price.

(3) It should have its stock well distributed, and should have in its board of directors the broadest minded, most far sighted and most liberal men of the town.

(4) If there exists the absolute necessity for the formation of a corporation, which shall be owned, directed and officered by men who live outside the town and are not directly interested in its growth, there should be the utmost care in the wording and provisions of the contract to be made.

The electric light is one of great beauty. For street illumination the system is, no doubt, the best. The poles are, however, a great nuisance. Paint them green or black; make them of chestnut, maple or iron; they are still a nuisance to be got rid of at the earliest practicable moment. A provision, then, which permits them to be taken down at a fixed time. The man or the town that accepts the verbal promise of a corporation that they will be removed at a certain time is quite sure to be disappointed. Only a written and signed contract to that effect is valid in law.

The provision that there should be no increase in price at renewal might be introduced into an electric light contract; also that there should be reductions in price corresponding to those made in other places. The company should also be compelled to serve private consumers in any part of the town, not in a small and compact district.

And, finally, the company might be compelled to fix a definite price at which it will sell its plant to the town in case an enabling act was passed by the Legislature. As there is no necessity for immediate action, suggestions as the provisions of this contract might be profitably received from all sources and thoroughly considered. Very little has been heard from the mass of voters upon this question, so that it is not even known whether electric lights are really desired by all at all. Hasty action above all things should be avoided.

Readers of THE CITIZEN need hardly be reminded again of the approaching bazaar in aid of the building fund of the Glen Ridge Church, to be held in the Lecture Room of the First Presbyterian Church on the afternoons and evenings of next Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 3d and 4th. Thorough and painstaking preparations are being made by the ladies in charge, and requests are fast coming in to make more rich the abundant variety of articles which will attract your benevolent attention. Mr. Frank M. Gregory having consented to take charge of the arrangement of the tables and the decoration of the room, the artistic effect it is believed will be all the patrons of the bazaar can desire. You will have an enviable chance to buy Christmas presents for your family and friends and avoid all the necessary haste and worry of the holiday season.

Among the special attractions will be the Phonograph, the Wonder Table and the Gypsy's Tent. Seeing is no longer believing—you must hear the phonograph which will be on exhibition at a very low price on both evenings and Wednesday P. M. Can you do better than to spend a pleasant hour or two enjoying the delights of the Glen Ridge Bazaar?

## Merit Wins.

We desire to say to our citizens, that for years we have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Dr. King's New Life Pills, Bucklen's Arnica Salve and Electric Bitters, and have never handled remedies that sell as well, or that have given such universal satisfaction. We do not hesitate to guarantee them every time, and we stand ready to refund the purchase price, if satisfactory results do not follow their use. These remedies have won their great popularity purely on their merits. Geo. M. Wood, Druggist.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve. The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Geo. M. Wood.

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Season of 1889-90 opens Saturday, October 12. Those entering the School for the first time should receive the number of their class.

East Orange Classes at Commonwealth Hall, Friday afternoon and evening. Term to begin Nov. 5th. Please send for Circular.

JOSEPH B. WHITE.

24 Franklin Street, Newark.

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From New York, New Jersey, South, and West.

From Eastern States 8:30 A.M.

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